

CHSAC Member Descriptions 2017

Jill Stewart - Committee Chair

Jill is a Licensed School Nurse and member of the Ramsey County Medical Reserve Corps. She started her nursing career at St Paul-Ramsey County Medical Center and has also worked as a Public Health Nurse. Jill is particularly interested in working with social determinants of health special needs populations.

Regina Rippel

Regina worked for the MN AIDS project for 15 years as case and program manager. After receiving her nursing degree she went on to work in a long-term facility. She is currently working at an assisted living facility and also does a lot of wellness events as a private contractor.

Tom Kottke

Tom practices cardiology with HealthPartners Medical Group and serves as Medical Director for Population Health at HealthPartners health plan. He focuses his efforts on creating physical and social environments that support and enable healthy lifestyles for all residents of St. Paul Ramsey County and other communities.

Eugene Nichols

Gene is a retired 3M Health Care Division Manager. Originally from Yonkers, NY, Gene moved to the Twin Cities and has been involved in numerous health and political related issues since moving to Minnesota. He is currently Board Chairman at Open Cities Health Center, and chairs the African American Leadership Forum-Health & Wellness Group. He is also serves on Shoreview's Human Rights Commission.

Madonna McDermott

Madonna is the Interim Dean of Students at the University of St. Thomas. She is also a practicing Adult Nurse Practitioner and has worked in the field of oncology and pain management at Allina and Oregon Health Services University. She is the mother of two sophomore daughters soon to be juniors at Washington University in St. Louis and De LaSalle High School in Minneapolis.

Kerri-Elizabeth Sawyer

Kerri-Elizabeth is a Research Scientist with the State of Minnesota. She works to improve the performance of Minnesota's state and local public health system. Kerri-Elizabeth joined the Committee in 2008.

Caitlyn Nystedt

Caitlyn currently works at Regions Hospital in revenue cycle project management. In 2013 she attained her Masters of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from Boston University School of Public Health. She is certified in Lean Process Improvement, and has worked on process improvement projects at other hospitals including Boston Medical Center and Rhode Island Hospital. She is also a resident of the Lowertown neighborhood in Downtown St. Paul. She is always looking for new ways to connect with our Public Health Community.

Mee Cheng

Mee is a second year graduate student at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. Her specific area of study is Public Health Administration and Policy. Currently, Cheng is a graduate research assistant with LifeCourse Project at Allina Health. She is passionate about integrating health policy, management and leadership with health care services and applying those to population health, especially for immigrant and low-income communities. Outside of school, Cheng is passionate about urban gardening, bicycling and volunteering with community organizations and events.

Maridee Bain

Maridee is a semi-retired nurse. She is originally from South Dakota, but has lived in the Metro area since 1971. She currently works for the DHS at an Intensive Residential Treatment Service (IRTS) facility in St. Paul. She also is a volunteer advocate for Ramsey County Sexual Offense Services (SOS). She enjoys reading and her pets (rescued dogs and cats). She enjoys the time she has with her son, her stepchildren, and most of all her nine grandchildren.

Mary Yackley

Mary supervises Student Health and Wellness in the Saint Paul Public Schools. Mary is a public health nurse and licensed school nurse. She brings health care and the prevention message to diverse populations where they are: schools, homes, correctional and community settings.

David Muhovich

David is a long-time St. Paul resident who wants to more actively connect with the positive work done in public health in his own community. He teaches Community Health Nursing and Cultural Diversity at Bethel University.

Joseph Adamji

Joseph is the director for the Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center, a workforce development program at the Science Museum of Minnesota serving youth ages 8-25. The KAYSC approach to workforce development connects STEM learning to social justice and careers. Throughout his professional career, he has addressed issues related to public health through building up and engaging youth leadership to address critical issues today, for a healthier future. In his personal time, Joseph enjoys cooking, eating, staying healthy, music, outdoor adventures, and building community.

David Nielsen

David works for Park Dental as a scheduling manager while also volunteering as a health educator for Community Dental Care. He has a B.S. in Human Biology with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. Through experience working as a PCA, and being very active within his community during his college years, he has developed a greater passion for helping others by empowering them in their own health. In his free time, he enjoys exploring local parks with his dog, kayaking, and regular exercise.

Michelle Swerin

Michelle is a Certified Community Health Worker currently employed with HealthEast. She has dedicated her career to supporting and working to engage others in making positive behavioral and lifestyle changes as a licensed clinical counselor, art therapist, wellness practitioner and certified community health worker.

Amy Harding

Amy is a Registered Nurse and a student in the Doctorate in Nursing Practice program at the University of Minnesota, with an emphasis in Health Innovations and Leadership. She is very passionate about community health, individual health and finding creative solutions in narrowing the gap among low income citizens, as well as health disparities for minorities.

Prasida Khanal

Prasida, MPH, BDS is a Health Services Manager at Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties. She was a dentist in her native Nepal who emigrated to the U.S. and earned a Master's in Public Health with honors. Prasida is a founder of "Rebuilding Health", a Nepal based nonprofit and has a diverse volunteer experience working with the United Nations. As a Health Services Manager, she fosters partnership with community agencies and collaborates with diverse and low-income families to promote the health, wellness, and safety of the children enrolled in Head Start program. As a CHSAC member, Prasida looks forward to recognizing the human face of diversity in order to deliver culturally competent public health services.

Emily Becker

Emily lives in District 3 of Ramsey County in the Como Neighborhood of St. Paul. She has lived here for over five years and really enjoys it. She became a member so that she could be more involved with the community. Emily feels that the community health needs more focus and attention, and that there is much work to be done to improve laws and regulations that could improve it. She is also a City Planner and is excited about the opportunity to exchange ideas on how communities can adopt land use regulations and Comprehensive Plan updates to encourage community health improvement.

Carrie Dickson

Carrie Dickson is a Certified Nurse Midwife with 22+ years in Maternal/Child nursing. She teaches at Normandale Community College and works per diem at the Minnesota Birth Center. Carrie is currently in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Minnesota State University, Mankato with a May 2018 anticipated graduation date. She has spent her career working to reduce health disparities in immigrant families, especially those from Spanish speaking countries. Through her doctoral work, Carrie is now working to reduce health disparities among individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. She is the mother of 3 wonderful elementary school-aged boys.

Maria Sundaram

Maria is a public health researcher with a master of science in public health degree and seven years of local and international research experience, including research positions at Johns Hopkins and Marshfield, Wisconsin as well as consultant positions at the World Health Organization and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in the Environmental Health department. Her research-related interests are in the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. She is also an avid language learner, bicyclist, and classical music enthusiast.